

What is claimed is:

1. A cooking apparatus comprising:  
a body having a substantially planar cooking surface heated by a heating  
mechanism and divided into two cooking surfaces by a center seam; and  
5 a mechanism disposed along said center seam for preventing fluids generated  
during cooking from draining through said center seam.

2. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said center seam  
mechanism is a center grease drain.

3. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said center seam  
mechanism is a seal.

4. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said center seam  
15 mechanism is a ridge.

5. The cooking apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said center  
grease drain is incorporated with a portion of said body including one of said two  
cooking surfaces.

6. The cooking apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said seal is made  
of silicone.

7. The cooking apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said ridge is formed by an abutment of upwardly extending protrusions disposed along each edge of said center seam.

5 8. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a hinge at said center seam, which is operative to fold the cooking apparatus along said center seam, such that said two cooking surfaces are disposed on external opposite and parallel sides.

10 9. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a control assembly, and said two cooking surfaces are controlled by said control assembly.

15 10. The cooking apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said control assembly is removably attached to the cooking apparatus.

20 11. The cooking apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said body of the cooking apparatus includes an underside, and wherein said underside includes an attachment mechanism to receive and store said control assembly when not in use.

12. The cooking apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising an indentation formed in said body, and in said two cooking surfaces, said indentation being adapted to receive said control assembly.

5 13. The cooking apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said control assembly includes a body having a plurality of control elements, and a cover covering said control elements.

10 14. The cooking apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said control elements include a first thermostatic control.

15 15. The cooking apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a first connector disposed on said control assembly.

16. The cooking apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a first probe disposed on said first connector, said first probe which is connected to said first thermostatic control.

20 17. The cooking apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said control elements include a pilot light.

18. The cooking apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said two cooking surfaces are separately controlled.

19. The cooking apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:  
5 a second connector disposed on said control assembly and having a second probe disposed thereon; and  
wherein said control elements include a second thermostatic control; and  
wherein said second probe is connected to said second thermostatic control.

10 20. The cooking apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said two cooking surfaces are separately controlled by said first thermostatic control and said second thermostatic control.

15 21. The cooking apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said attachment mechanism includes a plurality of recesses formed in a body of said control assembly, and adapted to receive bosses formed in said underside of said body of the cooking apparatus.

22. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at  
20 least one drain disposed in each of said two cooking surfaces, said drain for receiving fluids generated on each of said two cooking surfaces.

23. The cooking apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising at least one aperture disposed in said drain to drain said fluids accumulated therein.

24. The cooking apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising at least one receptacle disposed beneath said aperture, for collecting said fluids.

25. The cooking apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said receptacle is removable.

26. The cooking apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said receptacle includes a securing mechanism to secure said receptacle to said body of the cooking apparatus.

27. The cooking apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said securing mechanism is a detent detail in said receptacle which engages a spring tab in said body of the cooking apparatus.

28. The cooking apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a socket disposed in said body of the cooking apparatus, adapted to receive each said connector.

29. The cooking apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising a plurality of heating elements disposed in said body of the cooking apparatus and connected to said control assembly via a connection mechanism to said socket.

5 30. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a handle disposed at opposite side surfaces of said two cooking surfaces.

31. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a closing mechanism disposed within said body of the cooking apparatus, to hold the  
10 cooking apparatus closed when folded.

32. The cooking apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said closing mechanism is a magnetic closure element.

15 33. The cooking apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said closing mechanism is a snap clip.

34. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a supporting mechanism to support the cooking apparatus during usage.

35. The cooking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of projections which stably support the cooking apparatus when folded for storage.

5 36. A griddle comprising:  
a griddle body having a substantially planar cooking surface heated by a heating mechanism and divided into two cooking surfaces by a center seam; and  
a hinge disposed along said center seam to separate said two cooking surfaces such that the griddle can be folded in half and said two cooking surfaces can be  
10 disposed at external opposite and parallel sides.

37. A method of storing a cooking apparatus comprising:  
using a hinge at a center seam of the cooking apparatus to separate two cooking surfaces of the cooking apparatus; and  
15 folding the cooking apparatus such that said two cooking surfaces are on external opposite and parallel sides.

38. The method according to claim 37, further comprising:  
storing a control assembly within the underside of the cooking apparatus prior  
20 to using said hinge to separate said two cooking surfaces.